

NOT ABOUT THAT CLUB LIFE

By Daniela Cardinale

In the past few years, a disturbing trend in club membership has begun to negatively impact college life. From the outside in, it appears that fewer students are participating in club activities, meetings, and events. As someone who started a school newspaper in grammar school, and is currently introducing a photography club, I have come to recognize this as an obstacle many clubs face as a result of students who have lost interest or have become so overwhelmed by other clubs, assignments, their job(s), or family life that they must decide what is ultimately more important. Many students and faculty members have expressed that decreasing enrollment may have something to do with this campus-wide epidemic, but I beg to differ.

There are currently 4,138 undergraduate students and 841 graduate students attending the SJC Brooklyn and Long Island campuses combined. According to information provided by U.S. News & World Report, 75.9% of the 94.9% of students that applied for need-based financial aid received it, leaving nearly a quarter of all students without help from financial aid. Even before a student is able to apply for financial aid, they must be accepted into the college.

However, tuition does influence whether a student applies to a college institution. SJC undergraduate tuition (including fees) was \$23,000 in the 2014-2015 school year, increasing \$1,130 to \$24,130 for the 2015-2016 school year. Compared to other private colleges, the college's tuition is relatively lower; the average tuition of private four-year colleges is about \$31,000 while attending a CUNY is \$6,805. Money is money; whether it comes out of a student's pocket, a family member's, or a loan through a bank, a dollar can be the difference between years of stress and student debt. The chances of a student not being able to afford to attend the college as tuition increases grows. As a result, under-

graduate class size will continue to decrease and the appeal surrounding a club will dissipate, as fewer students will have an interest in it since the class sizes will decrease.

So what does this mean for the clubs that are struggling? Many are uncertain, but are trying to remain hopeful. Michele Ciprano, president of Student Ambassadors, stated, "I have noticed events around campus have not been well attended, but in general our crowds have been smaller than years past. I think the small amount of members is due to the shift the college has taken... I'm unsure what is going to happen next year. All I know is that as a leader I will do my best to engage others."

A select few clubs seem to be unaffected by the decline in club participation entirely. Kyle Johnson, the president of the Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC) stated, "Our school and athletic program are built to run as big families, so athletes understand the importance of having a group of individuals being the voice for the general student-athlete population. At meetings we usually frequent over 10 student-athletes in attendance... From my point of view, I've seen that the attendance of the e-board and senate meetings have been the most populated in a long time. I've been at every meeting this year and every seat is filled with an attentive and involved member of each club. In many cases more than one club member is in attendance for the meetings."

"I have no real comment on the declining enrollment and its influence on clubs, but I know that we have a great admissions department, which will seek out, recruit, and admit students who can positively impact St. Joseph's College. I believe that the declining numbers are a thing of the past for this institution."



Members of various SJC clubs gather after an event.



Jamir Archer drives for the hoop.

FEAR JAMIR

Senior Scorer Lands Skyline Conference Player of the Week Honors

By Eddie Zinser

Jamir Archer has become one of the most feared players in the Skyline Conference for the St. Joseph's College men's basketball team this season.

Archer has been outstanding in Skyline Conference play, earning conference player of the week honors for the week of January 24th, boasting an impressive stat line where he averaged 24 points per game and grabbed 9 rebounds per game.

The 6'4 forward credits the award to all of the Bears stating, "I couldn't have done it without my teammates and coaches believing in me. That week my teammates really made an effort to get me the ball in spots that I can be dominant at."

This confident attitude can clearly be seen in Jamir's on court play, becoming a senior leader for the Bears in their first season in the Skyline Conference. Archer describes himself as a true

"student of the game," constantly studying game film and learning from other players. One of Jamir's best qualities is his versatility on the court, which he attributes to watching NBA players like Atlanta Hawks forward Al Horford. Archer has an innate ability to score and can create both on and off the ball.

One of the most interesting things about Jamir is the change in his production output from his junior to senior seasons. He has more than doubled his stats in this time, truly becoming a feared player by opponents.

Archer chalks up this change to his offseason preparation, stating, "After last season ended I knew there were huge shoes to be filled with the loss of one of the school's all-time leading scorers. I took an even more serious approach to improving my game in all aspects, from strict dieting, to stretching, running and working out

consistently, playing against good competition, evaluating game film, reading, just doing all of the little things that can give me an advantage and get me better."

The team leader in field goal percentage, Archer is averaging 13.7 points per game and 6.4 rebounds per game, and has totally stepped up to the task of becoming a senior leader.

"For the team to win the Skyline Conference. We were overlooked by everyone and left with a chip on our shoulder," Jamir states on his goals for the rest of the season.

The Bears currently sit at 12-12 with a 9-10 record in conference play. They look to get hot for the Skyline Conference tournament, with the first round being played on Tuesday, February 23rd.



"Every Student Succeeds" replaces "No Child Left Behind," in Politics & Society!



Our DEAD-POOL review, in Arts & Entertainment!



Make-up or no make-up? In Lifestyle!

Are You Vitamin D Deficient?

Nearly three quarters of young adults are.

By Urwah Ahmad

Have you been feeling tired? Blame it on stress or your chaotic schedule? There are many reasons why you may feel this way. One reason may be vitamin D deficiency.

According to the National Institute of Health, in the United States researchers estimate that nearly three quarters of young adults and adults are vitamin D deficient. Vitamin D plays a vital role in maintaining our health. Just like how every organism is important in the environment, in our bodies the role of vitamin D is to maintain bone, brain function, and skin health.

Vitamin D may be obtained from exposure to sunlight. It is suggested by doctors that this being outside is the BEST way to obtain vitamin D because sunlight allows vitamin D to last twice as long as the vitamins we would absorb through food or pill. It is recommended by doctors that when an individual goes outside after having applied sunscreen (because it lowers expo-

sure) a person should spend 15-20 minutes in sunlight. Also, if you are taking vitamin D in pill form it is important to know what brand you are taking and make research to sure it is a good quality trusted brand.

However, going outside and playing is not something many college students do often. We study inside, work mostly inside, and find it is hard to get enough outside time due to our hectic schedules. The fact that many are scared of spending time in the sun because the threat of skin cancer increases due to the intensity of ultraviolet rays. Aside from sunlight and taking vitamin supplements, it is possible to include more vitamin D in your diet. Though not that many foods have vitamin D some that do include fish oils, egg yolk, and dairy products (yogurt, milk, cheese).

Research done in "The Journal of Nutrition" has suggested that there are many factors that impact our vitamin D

intake. It varies due to the seasons, our skin color, body mass index and more. Because everyone's needs are different you should consult a doctor and ask about your vitamin levels. Research done by the University of Otago in New Zealand and presented in the journal "Nutrients" has shown that vitamin D helps to regulate hormones which are essential in helping to control mood, energy, and stress levels. Sometimes, a deficiency has been documented to trigger depression in college students.

As all vitamins are important, vitamin D is a necessity our bodies need to function properly. It is not something that not many people wonder about, unless when they go to doctor, but it is vital for our health. Find out your particular needs by going to your primary care provider and getting a blood test done, and taking charge of your health.



Health Central

Costs for College Students Living in NYC

The best city on earth is also one of the most expensive.

By Bruno Merisier

Do you see yourself living in New York a year after graduating from St. Joseph College? For many, the answer is yes. Some students have families that reside in New York City. And so the incentive is to live in New York to be close to support. Another incentive would be for continued employment in the city or anywhere else in New York. Even though students may have financial support and stability here, do we know how much it will cost to live in the city? About a year ago, once source found that the average rent for

a one bedroom apartment within the five boroughs is \$3,100. Meanwhile the average in Miami, Florida is \$1,700.

Borough Discrepancy: Perhaps many people have caught on, but it seems to be that Manhattan is the victor for being the most expensive borough. What are the numbers? If you would like to purchase a family sized apartment one day, you will pay 10% higher in Manhattan than anywhere else. So if you were paying \$2,000 a month for a family sized apartment in Queens,

you'll pay \$2,200 a month for the same size in Manhattan! Why do the prices vary so?

A handful of home owners in Manhattan claim that the borough has a dense but very accessible transit system. Goods such as groceries are readily available to those living in Manhattan. This may explain why the prices keep rising. This, of course, is old news, but even Toys R' Us could not afford keeping its Manhattan branch open (the one with the large Ferris Wheel). But a more current problem Manhattan stores owner's face is pressure to maintain a sales quota for a short amount of time (from investors). If those demands aren't met, stores will close down.

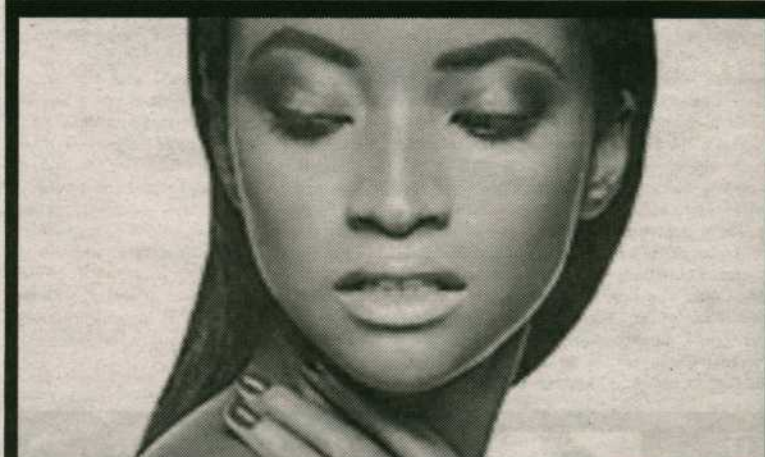
Trains/Transit/MTA: The train and bus fare for the MTA has slowly crept up from \$2.25 to \$2.75. That is not to say that people have a problem with paying an extra 50 cents. Now transit users charge \$1 for buying a new metro card, for the card itself. If you pay careful attention, the expiration dates on the new metro card have a shorter time frame than those you would buy



Pinterest

from two years ago. Some students complain that the G train still does not come as often as it should. So in other words, the price to use the mass transit is increasing, although people experience the same problems they had experienced before the price jump. But why is there a price jump? Apparently, the MTA needs

more funding than it currently receives to make critical improvements and repairs. Law makers need to approve laws for the MTA to receive a \$15 billion in funds. If that need is not met within a certain time, the cost will come right out of the MTA users' wallet.



Sephora

To Wear or Not Wear Makeup

By Alessandra Lanno

The latest trends are plastered on a magazine as you enter the aisle of a local pharmacy or corner shop. Women with long voluminous lashes, peach colored cheeks, and big glossy lips are at the front of the current issue of Vogue. with subtitles that read, "Tips to make your lips appear bigger!" or "Makeup trends for spring you must try!" Meanwhile, most girls would rather read an article titled, "How to enjoy staying in your pajamas while you binge watch your favorite show on Netflix."

There are those who enjoy the wearing six-inch heels with a pair of leather pants and a bold lip. There are those who sport a messy bun while wearing the comfiest pair of Uggs and worn out jeans. Both types of women could have two different lifestyles: a simplistic or busy daily routine. Perhaps it is a preference of comfort that dictates

their style. Whatever the reason, there is no right or wrong way to express one's self.

Magazines and the media portray a different "look" a woman should have. For example, most trendsetter makeup rules declare that smokey-eyes and bold lips are only to be worn in the fall and winter. Minimal makeup (or the ever-so-famous, "no makeup," makeup) is best suited during the spring and summer. What about promoting that every woman or man who wears makeup can wear whatever suits them best? Or promote the idea that no one has to wear makeup in order to be in trend?

If you have entered a Sephora or MAC store, you know the uncomfortable feeling of judgment by the employees. Even if your makeup is not on a makeup artistry level, you will certainly not be guaranteed great customer service. As shallow or degrading as it may feel, the fashion industry has

ideas on what is considered acceptable. This discourages young girls who want to be able to experiment with makeup freely, the fear of being judged harshly based on whether her winged eyeliner is not perfectly equal on each eye. The original purpose of makeup was to transform one to have more confidence if they didn't have it without it. There is the other side of the spectrum, if one wears too much makeup or uses a certain technique to make her cheekbones or even her chest appear more chiseled, she is "fooling" other people on how she really looks.

The real understanding that society must undergo is to accept women who choose to look as if they either stepped out of a photo-shoot or off of their comfy couch area after spending nights submitting paperwork to their boss. There IS a standard of how a woman should look, act, and appear to those around her, actually, and the defining concept is that individual features and choices are what make one beautifully unique. So no matter how much makeup a person wears, encouraging one another to express ourselves in a bold or seldom-seen manner is not only being commendable but respectful to women who are just trying to be who they are.

Deadpool is Silver Screen Gold

By Daniela Cardinale

There has been nothing but crazy talk since discussion over Deadpool began back in 2012. It was difficult for anyone at the time to imagine such a raunchy, violent character having a movie idolizing his persona and inappropriate habits. Even I had doubts that Marvel and Fox would ever be up to producing that movie and I was right... until I wasn't. But we all completely underestimated Reynold's deep connection to his spirit animal, a.k.a. his alter ego.

In several interviews to promote the film, Reynolds admitted that he has been obsessed with starring as Deadpool since he read his first comic, "Cable & Deadpool," eleven years ago, the very same comic in which Deadpool described himself as "Ryan Reynolds crossed with a shar-pei." Reynolds continued to annoy Marvel execs, starring in test footage true to the character that eventually leaked online. The positive response fans had to the test footage was so great that a video game was produced, a draft script was written (and leaked online) and, eventually, the movie was made.

Since the movie was marketed as a romance, its release on Valentine's Day weekend was able to reel in moviegoers, cashing in with \$134 million dollars nationally during opening weekend. With an estimated budget of \$58 million, the R rating prevented it from making more, although marketing helped to convince moviegoers to give it a try.

Although the plot was lacking in originality, the dialogue and action scenes were vibrant, full of vulgarity and the obscene comments that have earned Deadpool the nickname "Merc with the Mouth." The nudity and gory violence were fitting and made it stand out from past superhero films, testing moviegoer's tolerance. The weakest aspect of the movie were the characters of Negasonic Teenage Warhead (Brianna Hildebrand), Colossus (Stefan Kapicic), Weasel (T.J. Miller), and Angel Dust (Gina Carano). Negasonic Teenage Warhead and Colossus were included in the film because there was not enough money in the budget to afford more recognizable X-Men. Weasel's relationship with Deadpool is basically a bartender and patron relationship, one in which Wade shares way too much of his personal life with Weasel because he keeps tabs on potential clients for him, while Weasel delivers weak one-liners. Angel Dust, mutant assistant to the villainous Ajax, literally had the personality of a brick.

Overall, the witty, vulgar dialogue, nudity and violent action scenes made Deadpool more of an experience than a revolutionary comic-book movie. It was definitely a step in the right direction as it did depict the majority of Deadpool's origin story. However, Deadpool crossing the fourth wall throughout the film to directly address the audience and pass shade on his awful representation in "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" as the reason why Marvel waited so long to produce this movie was immature, and the reason the movie lacked more important characters was because the studio did not have confidence that the movie would be received well enough to get a sequel. His comments referencing the studio are the equivalent of the scene right before Deadpool falls into the back of a passing truck. The two post-credits scenes promised not only a sequel but that the character of Cable, his closest mutant companion, would definitely be in it. Needless to say, Deadpool has potential for greatness. As long as Marvel and Fox refrain from investing more money into the sequel to make a more diverse cast of characters, Deadpool will continue to tell off Marvel. One thing is for sure, Deadpool made "Marvel's The Avengers" look like child's play.

The Year the Music Thrived

By Brianna Todman

Music is the theme of 2016, with artists dropping albums left and right. Rihanna, Future, Wiz Khalifa, Majid Jordn, and Young Thug have already released albums. Following them in this month and next are Zayn Malik, Drake, Kanye West, and possibly Beyoncé.

Rihanna just dropped her anticipated album "Anti". Listening to the songs on "Anti", you can tell the singer took time to work on her vocals. Songs like "Love on the Brain", "Consideration", and "Higher" her range, while other hits like "Work" showcase the influence of her Caribbean. There aren't many features, but the ones we do get are amazing, including Drake on "Work" and the angelic accompaniment by SZA on "Consideration". "Same Ol' Mistakes" is a cover of a song by the same name by indie rock band Tame Impala. Arguably Rihanna's best work to date, "Anti" was three years in the making and for good reason.

Fresh off the release of his latest mix tape "Purple Reign", Future came back with another album, this one titled "EVOL". (Dropping albums within a month of each might seem risky, but in our hyper-consumerist nation it could be a risk worth the reward.) The first album was just a precursor for the second; many of the songs on Purple Reign were too slow and similar, and there were few identifiable hits. But Future came back stronger with EVOL, leaving fans relieved that this album was more similar to his greatest work, Dirty Sprite 2. "Low Life (ft. The Weeknd)", "Seven Rings", and "Maybach" showcase the sultry singing, auto-tuned infused rap, and Metro beats we all know and love.

Beyoncé's new hit "Formation" is drawing a lot of attention and causing scandal. The song, which was performed at the Super Bowl, caused immediate uproar with the inclusion of Black Panther imagery during her performance. Beyoncé addresses the verbal attacks aimed at her family with lyrics like: "I like my baby heir with baby hair and afros. I like my Negro nose with Jackson Five nostrils," addressing the comments about Blue Ivy's hair being "nappy" and "unkempt", as well as the comments about the size of Jay-Z's nose. "Formation" is being called a pro-black anthem in which the singer addresses issues of race and institutional racism. The video is filled with elements of "blackness," opening up in New Orleans with houses submerged in water and a New Orleans native asking: "What happened at the New Wil'ins?", a reference to the delayed response to Hurricane Katrina and the blatant issue of class and race that led to the lack of government intervention. She even went as far as including aspects of Louisiana bounce in the beat/song. The video is also chock filled with other references to black culture and its appropriation throughout America.

Following a split from the band One Direction, Zayn Malik just came out with his first hit, "Pillow Talk", and if you ask me it's better than anything he ever did with One Direction. Apparently I'm not the only one; the singer was able to do something solo that One Direction could never accomplish, and that's debut at No. 1 on Hot 100. His album is set to release next month and is sure to be as amazing as his first hit.

We're not even two months in, and the 2016 music landscape is rich and diverse. What will the rest of the year bring?

Brooklyn Voices: Hanya Yanagihara

By Michelle Darris

Renowned author Hanya Yanagihara launched the paperback version of her newest novel "A Little Life" with Greenlight Bookstore on January 28th as the second installment of Brooklyn Voices, a series of conversations with an array of notable authors hosted by St. Joseph's College. Written in only 18 months, Hanya discusses her 720-page novel with Isaac Fitzgerald, editor for BuzzFeed Books.

Hanya explains that she started her career in publishing, and attributes this intimate experience with the publication process to writing "A Little Life" in secret. She believes that announcing a book allows a certain vulnerability in leading the author to adopt a persona of what a writer "should be." Though she worked on her novel every day for 18 months, she does not recommend this frenzied state of writing, but began this novel while finishing her first and worked on it incessantly because she knew exactly where it was going. After the short year and a half she spent writing the novel, it has now been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

Although she sped through writing the novel, the process of publishing the story proved to be a contrasting experience. Because of the sheer length of the book, her editor wanted her to shed a third of it. Sensing that this was a business suggestion on marketing her book rather than an editorial suggestion on improving it, Hanya refused to cut the length of her novel for fear of compromising the quality. Their disagreements got heated at times but, sensing that the book would be a best-seller, her publishing house accepted Hanya's

tenacity and published "A Little Life" with all of its 720 pages.

"A Little Life" depicts the life of four college friends as they become successful in their respective fields in New York City. In discussing the prevalent theme of friendship, Isaac Fitzgerald asks Hanya what she finds so enticing about it. "Friendship is the most underrated relationship of our lives," she responds. It is the first act of relationship autonomy: you are essentially choosing a person. It is a powerful, unspoken agreement, but in our society it is considered a lesser relationship; there are no financial or sexual factors, and it is not modified by law. In a broad sense, she regards "A Little Life" as a political novel for having an absence of institutionalized relationships.

Success is another central aspect of her novel and in addressing the reason for incorporating it so firmly, her answer is simple: "In New York, success loves success." People come to New York to refashion themselves, and there is always a sense of running either to or from something. This ambition is what unites New Yorkers and evokes the fetishizing of success. In a sense, this success is a binding factor in the friendship of the four in "A Little Life."

Hanya regards the current literary world as the era of the "cool novel." In a time of remote literature that has a certain disdain for emotion, she classifies her book as unfashionably and unapologetically emotional. She intended for it to be a story that grabbed the reader by the throat and, sure enough, it took the literary scene by storm. Profoundly candid, unadulterated, and thought-provoking, "A Little Life" quickly gained popularity and is now available in paperback.



Photo: Michelle Darris

Author Hanya Yanagihara sits down at St. Joseph's to chat about her new book, "A Little Life".

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act: A Step, Far Too Late

By Adriana DiBenedetto

Gender pay gap? Just call it what it is: sexism, systematic discrimination. This is an issue that has been plaguing our society since the very beginning " when women began regularly entering the workforce, when men decided they didn't belong there.

Why is it still even an issue in 2016? It's disgraceful.

Friday, January 29, 2016, was the 7th anniversary of the passing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. The federal statute was first signed into law in 2009 by President Barack Obama, and amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964, allowing a period of 180 days after each paycheck to file a lawsuit in regards to equal-pay discrimination.

For those who watched the speech, it would seem that there was no way around the suit-- it could not have been more straightforward: a woman discovered she had been paid less than her male counterparts, doing the same type of work, but was not receiving the same pay. But it was not just her, of course; it was an issue in virtually every workspace. No matter if it was dominated by males or females, on average, a woman will still earn only 78% of her male counterpart's earnings. It seemed that she could not lose, that is, until she did, in fact, lose! Apparently, there was a limitation to the amount of time one had to file this particular complaint before it could simply be ignored.

But the real issue is not so much that the time

limit stopped her from receiving compensation for the injustice, but that there was a wage gap in the first place. Was her time and effort somehow inferior? Is it possible that every woman on this planet, regardless of time, place, culture, life goals, and so on, will always be mediocre compared to literally any other male? Let's not get too full of ourselves. Some people are more capable, more experienced, more level-headed, and better fit for certain positions, and one's gender should not negate their qualifications.

In a 2005 study by Mainiero and Sullivan, they explain that despite the numerous advances and strides for improvement that society has made thus far, females in the workforce still largely remain stuck in middle management. Additionally, in the United States, the study has shown that presently women have made substantial advancements, from only one in five women holding professional managerial jobs, to being almost equal. Where the equality diverges, however, seems to be immediately upon hiring.

The prevailing attitude among employees is that females are encouraged to apply for higher positions, but their effort will not be weighed in the same manner that a male employee's would. The motto "think leader, think male" still unfortunately prevails in many job spaces (Hoobler et al., 2009).

President Obama had said something quite striking during his original 2009 address of this topic: "We are all created equal and each deserve a chance to pursue our own version of happiness." When one is consistently treated as if they are not a person, and are continually told that they are not good enough, how can they possibly achieve happiness?

This Act had been resisted by Congress for long enough, but will now require companies with 100 employees or more to report their salary information annually, along with a form which states the employee's sex, age, and job groups, which will be required to submit. A simple, near infinitesimal change, and yet, there are still people fighting against such movements. Republicans continue to argue against punitive damages being repaid to women who sue for wage discrimination, saying that it can only lead to "frivolous lawsuits." Additionally, since gender discrimination is already illegal, no further actions should be taken. A fine example of the "it doesn't personally affect me, so it must not be real" argument.

The specific questions being asked here are these: are women viewed as less capable and less efficient because of their family role? Are women more likely to put their family issues before their job than men are? These are indeed pressing

"We are all created equal and each deserve a chance to pursue our own version of happiness."

President Barack Obama

questions, especially when statistics have revealed that women having children tend to have less success in their careers, whereas men tend to have more success in their careers if they do have children. Taking note of those in managerial positions, 84.1% of them are male, and average about 40.2 years of age.

On average, managers have more children than their subordinates. The implication is that women's careers suffer because of their caregiving stereotypes, while a male's will flourish, perpetuating the stereotype that not only do fathers have less to do with the upbringing of their own children, but also that a woman must have children to achieve happiness, thus locking her out of her other life goals. Through analysis, however, it has shown that men and women both seem to show similar levels of interference within the family-workplace dynamic. A reason, Hoobler et al., states, for the perpetuation of the fewer opportunities to women are similar to that of confirmation bias. An employer will more likely call on information that affirms these prior assumptions rather than contradicts them "a cognitive bias that has been reinforced and solidified over time (Hoobler et al., 2009).

So, while this Act is a great step in ensuring wage equality, it has taken far too long to enact for anyone to be jumping for joy. More strides must be made, and we must foster an acceptance for all people' and an acceptance, not meaning the toleration of people, but embracing.

Education Policy Changes: President Promises That Every Student Will Succeed

By Arianna Cardinale

On December 11, 2015, President Barack Obama had signed a bill that would replace the education reform bill of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act signed into effect of January 2002 by President Bush. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will help to assure that every student will be prepared to attend college and be provided with the necessary skills to succeed in the 21st century.

President Obama believed that NCLB provided schools throughout the country a "cookie-cutter" approach to teaching students that would never be able to identify the needs of different learners. He identified that schools were finding too many short cuts to ensure that students always performed well on testing rather than placing emphasis on the learning aspect of the classroom environment. The annual English, math, science assessment tests will now be broken up into multiple assessments that will be given out at various times of the year in the hopes of attaining more accurate performance findings for the learning progress of each student.

ESSA will not require states to adopt Common Core standards. Obama tried to encourage states to adopt Common Core standards with NCLB but it was not a requirement. That being said, Common Core has and will be, according to ESSA,



decided on by the individual states themselves with no influence from the Education Department on their decisions to use or disregard Common Core standards.

ESSA will require \$24.9 billion in spending alone for 2016 but that figure is subject to change. Funds will be directed to schools that perform under the 5% level on assessment tests in each state will

receive aid. High schools with under 67% graduation rate will also receive aid. Schools that consistently fail to improve the quality of education for their programs after having receiving financial aid may be subject to state takeover.

The president is hoping that ESSA will be able to improve the chances children have to succeed in our job economy. The act cannot secure the future job

economy of our nation and it cannot ensure that all students will be given the exact services they require if aid will only be given to a very low percentage of low performing schools. Even so, there is much optimism around what kind of aid ESSA will provide the students of America.